FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SystemC Synthesis for Breakthrough Price of $995

Oxford and Ipswich, UK, 18th January, 2005 – Orange Tree Technologies and SystemCrafter announce the SystemCrafter package for SystemC development work. The package consists of the SystemCrafter SC compiler, for the synthesis of SystemC to VHDL, and the ZestSC1 FPGA development board. The list price for the compiler is only $995, and the package of compiler and board is only $1490. This is a breakthrough in price for SystemC synthesis technology.

SystemC is a worldwide standard for modelling hardware and software systems using the C/C++ language with a library for hardware constructs. As well as allowing hardware and software to be simulated in the same framework, it is also more compact than VHDL or Verilog. It is faster to write, and more maintainable and readable, and can be compiled into an executable specification for fast simulation.

SystemCrafter SC automatically synthesises hardware designs written in SystemC to VHDL. This VHDL can then be used with commonly available tools to target Xilinx FPGAs. This enables engineers and programmers to design, debug and simulate hardware and systems using their existing C++ development environment.

Most other SystemC and proprietary C-to-hardware tools cost many $10,000's, often for just a one year subscription. SystemCrafter SC brings the price down to a much more acceptable $995 for a perpetual licence for the compiler alone, or $1490 bundled with the ZestSC1 development board.

Jonathan Saul, Chief Executive of SystemCrafter, commented, "C-to-hardware tools have always been extremely expensive, and in most cases have been based on a proprietary language. SystemCrafter SC not only brings the price of C-to-hardware within the reach of everyone, but also uses a widely-supported language which is an industry standard."

Matt Bowen, Director of Orange Tree Technologies, said, "We are very excited to be collaborating with SystemCrafter. To evaluate their software a novice SystemC programmer used SystemCrafter SC to write a DES encryption application for images, and developed a fully functioning deliverable application in only two days."

SystemCrafter SC gives the designer control over the critical areas of scheduling and allocation. For verification the same SystemC testbench can be used to verify the design at all stages. A standard C++ compiler and freely available class libraries from www.systemc.org are used for simulation.

ZestSC1 is a desktop FPGA development board with High Speed 480Mbits/sec USB interface. It achieves very high sustained bandwidths using the streaming interface of the dedicated on-board USB hardware engine. The FPGA is the Xilinx Spartan-3 with up to one million logic gates, and there is also up to 8Mbytes of SRAM. User I/O is provided

through 49 header pins. A daughter card e.g. for ADC/DAC or video in/out can be plugged into the header and powered from the board. The board can be powered from USB for maximum portability, but can also be powered from a wall adapter if extra power is required.

The board is provided with full software support for Windows XP and 2000, together with example logic cores for all the FPGA interfaces for use with SystemCrafter SC. These all help the user get their application up and running as quickly as possible.

The package can be purchased direct from the web at www.systemcrafter.com. A free evaluation version of SystemCrafter SC can be downloaded and used for 30 days. Prices are $995 for SystemCrafter SC, from $495 for ZestSC1, and from $1490 for the package of SystemCrafter SC and ZestSC1. ZestSC1's price depends on options such as FPGA type and memory size. SystemCrafter SC prices are for a perpetual licence. Discounts for students and universities are available. Both products are available immediately.

Flow chart for SystemCrafter and block diagram and photograph of ZestSC1 are attached. Click here for high resolution photograph:
http://www.orangetreetech.com/ZestSC1_highres.jpg

About Orange Tree Technologies

Led by Charles Sweeney and Matt Bowen, previously founders of the EDA company Celoxica, Orange Tree Technologies is committed to providing the highest performance and best value FPGA-based platforms. These boards can be used in a variety of systems to deliver extreme data processing performance. Target markets include military, aerospace, telecommunications, imaging and machine vision, industrial control, and education. The website is www.orangetreetech.com

About SystemCrafter

SystemCrafter exists to bring their customers the power of fourth-generation electronic design synthesis, and so to make it easier, faster and less risky to create advanced IC designs. To fulfill this mission, they have created SystemCrafter SC. SystemCrafter SC is a software tool that can automatically synthesize designs written in the industry-standard SystemC language to electronic hardware. SystemCrafter have invested heavily in the engineering development of SystemCrafter SC, but keep sales and marketing costs very low by selling it exclusively through their website. This enables them to sell the tool at a price within range of all chip designers. SystemCrafter was founded in 2002, and is based in Ipswich, England, about 70 miles northeast of London. Their website is www.systemcrafter.com.

All trademarks are acknowledged.

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